

his friendship and protection. Though I knew him to be an adept in the art of dissimulation, yet his affected kindness appeared so natural that I thought all his unfavorable feeling towards me was at an end. I spoke to persons by whom our two families were allied, requesting that they would assure the Emperor of the reciprocity of my sentiments, and tell him that I was ready to assist his great plans in any way not hostile to the interests of Sweden.

"Would you believe, my dear friend, that the persons to whom I made these candid protestations laughed at my credulity ? They told me that after the conversation in which the Emperor had so cordially pressed my hand I had scarcely taken leave of him when he was heard to say that I had made a great display of my learning to him, and that he had humored me like a child. He wished to inspire me with full confidence so as to put me off my guard; and I know for a certainty that he had the design of arresting me.

" But," pursued Bernadotte, " in spite of the feeling of animosity which I know the Emperor has cherished against me since the 18th Brumaire, I do not think, when once I shall be in Sweden, that he will wish to have any differences with the Swedish Government. I must tell you also he has given me 2,000,000 francs in exchange for my principality of Ponte-Corvo. Half the sum has been already paid, which will be very useful to me in defraying the expenses of my journey and installation.¹ When I was about to step into my carriage to set off, an individual, whom you must excuse me naming, came to bid me farewell, and related to me a little conversation which had just taken place at the Tuileries. Napoleon said to the individual in question, ' Well, does not the Prince regret leaving France?' — 'Certainly, Sire.⁵ — 'As to me, I should have been very glad if he had not accepted his election. But there is no help for it. . . . He does not like me.'⁷ — 'Sire, I must take the liberty of saying that your Majesty labors under a mistake. I know the differences which have existed between you and General Bernadotte for the last six

¹ The other million stipulated in exchange for the principality of Ponte-Corvo was never paid to Bernadotte. — *Bourrienne*.